



INSIDE SOLID WASTE

Fall 2025

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Inside Solid Waste is produced quarterly by Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force



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SWMC

Inside Solid Waste

Task Force Public Education and
Information Subcommittee

JOY PIPKIN

For information, call
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Monday - Thursday, 7 a.m. - 5 p.m.



Visit lacountyiswmtf.org to find agendas, meeting minutes and copies of the Inside Solid Waste newsletter. If you are interested in participating on the Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Public Education and Information Subcommittee or if you would like to submit an article for Inside Solid Waste, please contact Monique Brackett at (626) 300-2697 or mbrackett@dpw.lacounty.gov. Quarterly meetings are held at Los Angeles County Public Works Headquarters to discuss and review upcoming newsletters.

City of Los Angeles S.A.F.E Permanent Collection Centers

Open Saturday and Sunday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., unless otherwise noted.
Services suspended during rainy weather.
For information, call (800) 98-TOXIC (988-6942).

Gaffey Street Collection Center

1400 N. Gaffey Street, San Pedro, CA 90731

Hyperion Treatment Plant

7660 W. Imperial Highway, Gate B, Playa Del Rey, CA 90293

Washington Boulevard Collection Center

2649 E. Washington Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90021

Randall Street S.A.F.E. Center

11025 Randall Street, Sun Valley, CA 91352

UCLA Location (E-waste accepted on Saturdays only)

550 Charles E. Young Drive West, Los Angeles, CA 90095
Open Thursday - Saturday 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Los Angeles/Glendale Collection Center (Temporarily closed)

4600 Colorado Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90039

Los Angeles County Permanent Collection Centers

Antelope Valley Environmental Collection Center

Antelope Valley Public Landfill,
1200 West City Ranch Road, Palmdale, CA 93551
Open 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

EDCO Environmental Collection Center

EDCO Recycling and Transfer Center,
2755 California Avenue, Signal Hill, CA 90755
Open 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

About Household Hazardous Waste

Items accepted: paint and solvents, used motor oil and filters, anti-freeze and other automotive fluids, cleaning products, pool and garden chemicals, aerosol cans, all medicines except for controlled substances, auto batteries, household batteries, computers, monitors, printers, network equipment, cables, telephones, televisions, microwaves, video games, cell phones, radios, stereos, VCRs and electronic toys. **Not accepted: business waste, ammunition, explosives, radioactive material, trash, tires and bulky items such as furniture, refrigerators, washing machines/dryers and stoves.**

Senate Bill (SB) 1383 Procurement



The Senate Bill (SB) 1383 regulations require local jurisdictions across California to implement organic waste recycling collection and edible food recovery. In addition, local jurisdictions are required to maintain all records of compliance in an Implementation Record. Effective January 1, 2025, local jurisdictions were expected to meet their target for the procurement of recovered organic waste products.

To meet these procurement targets, local jurisdictions can purchase a variety of products, either for use in their own operations or through contracted service providers. These products include compost, mulch, electricity, and transportation fuel. If a local jurisdiction includes electricity procured from a biomass conversion facility in its procurement mandate, it must obtain a written certification that confirms the biomass feedstock was received from a permitted and authorized solid waste facility. Compost and mulch products must meet specific land application standards.

Following the passage of Assembly Bill (AB) 2902 and AB 2346 in 2024, local jurisdictions may meet up to 10 percent of their procurement targets using mulch produced from their own tree trimming operations, provided it is applied to landscape areas owned or managed by the jurisdiction or offered free to residents. Local jurisdictions may also count compost produced and procured from vermicomposting or mushroom composting operations toward their target for recovered organic waste procurement.

Local jurisdiction may also receive procurement credit for certain direct expenditures made before December 31, 2025. These include investments for community composting operations serving the jurisdiction, composting equipment such as compost spreaders, drag harrows, chippers, stump grinders and blowers, and the development of compost or mulch distribution sites that provide free compost and mulch to residents.

To help identify sources of compliant recovered organic waste products, Los Angeles County Public Works developed a list of organizations that offer eligible products for sale. The list includes 26 facilities located across Los Angeles, Kern, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura Counties.

In addition to organic waste procurement, all departments within a jurisdiction are required to purchase paper products that contain postconsumer recycled content and are recyclable. Procurement records of recycled-content paper must include volume and type of paper purchased, along with copies of all certifications or other forms of verification. Paper products must meet minimum recycled-content requirements and be eligible to be labeled with an “unqualified recyclable label” designation.

For more information on SB 1383 procurement requirements, visit <https://calrecycle.ca.gov/organics/slcp/resources/>.

New Laws Enacted to Help Local Jurisdictions Meet Senate Bill 1383 Procurement Targets



In September 2024, Governor Newsom signed Assembly Bill (AB) 2902 (Wood) and AB 2346 (Lee) into law. These bills provide jurisdictions with an extension of the rural exemption, waivers for procurement in low-population or high-elevation areas, exemptions from the bin lid color requirements for bear-resistant bins, options to adjust procurement targets, and an expanded list of eligible recovered organic waste products.

AB 2902 and AB 2346 state that a jurisdiction with a rural exemption as of January 1, 2024, will remain exempt from complying with the organic waste collection services and procurement requirements until January 1, 2037. Jurisdictions with low population or elevation waivers will receive a reduced recovered organic waste procurement target for the next five years. In these cases, The California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) will revise the

jurisdiction's target by removing the population covered by these waivers. They will also exempt bear-resistant containers from the lid color requirements under Senate Bill 1383.

Under these laws, one or more local jurisdiction within the same county now have the option to conduct a waste characterization study at a local disposal facility to determine their per capita procurement target. Jurisdictions that do not opt to do a study will continue to use 0.8 tons per capita of organic waste generated annually to determine their procurement target.

These laws also allow a jurisdiction to obtain credit for the procurement of recovered organic waste products without executing a direct service provider agreement with the end users of the product, provided they meet the required conditions. These conditions are similar to those existing in jurisdictions using direct service



provider agreements, including quantity verification, recordkeeping, and new or existing ordinances, regulations, resolutions, and/or policies that cover this procurement.

AB 2902 and AB 2346 permit jurisdictions to include compost from small composting facilities, vermicompost, and mushroom compost toward their procurement targets. To include these, jurisdictions will need to adopt an ordinance or enforceable mechanism requiring compost and/or vermicompost procured by the jurisdiction to be used in a manner that meets the state's definition of 'land application', as well as existing pathogen, metals, and physical contamination limits that apply to existing composting facilities.

These laws allow a jurisdiction to meet up to 10 percent of its procurement target from mulch produced by its tree trimming operations and/or

recovered edible food from commercial generators. The credit for the combined contribution of these two sources may not exceed 10 percent of their total annual procurement. Jurisdictions may also fulfill an additional 10 percent of their total annual procurement target through investments in the development of community composting operations, compostable material handling operations, or equipment used for applying compost or mulch.

For more information on procurement requirements, including CalRecycle's AB 2902 and AB 2346 announcement and Guidance Document, visit <https://calrecycle.ca.gov/organics/slcp/procurement/>.

Unlocking Senate Bill 1383 Procurement Credit Through Mulch from Tree Trimming Operations



As California jurisdictions strive to meet the ambitious organic waste diversion goals established by Senate Bill (SB) 1383, many are discovering that they may be closer to compliance than they initially believed. One often-overlooked opportunity lies within the routine operations of park and landscaping maintenance departments, specifically, in the use of mulch produced from tree trimming activities.

SB 1383, enacted in 2016, mandates a statewide reduction in organic waste disposal to combat climate change by lowering greenhouse gas emissions. To support this, jurisdictions are required to procure recovered organic waste products such as compost, mulch, renewable gas, and electricity derived from biomass. These products must be used in ways that align with the law's environmental goals and properly documented in the jurisdiction's implementation record and Electronic Annual Report (EAR).

In 2024, Assembly Bill (AB) 2346 introduced added flexibility to SB 1383 compliance. Under AB 2346, jurisdictions are now authorized to count up to 10 percent of their annual procurement target from either recovered edible food donated by commercial food generators or mulch produced and applied by service providers, such as landscape or tree trimming

companies. This provision is a significant game-changer for cities and counties that already implement sustainable practices, whether through food recovery partnerships or landscaping operations.

For example, consider a jurisdiction with a population of 100,000. Under SB 1383, its annual procurement target is eight percent per capita, equating to 8,000 tons of recovered organic waste products. Thanks to AB 2346, up to 800 tons of that target can now be met through a combination of recovered food donations and mulch generated from tree trimming operations, provided these activities are appropriately documented and verifiable.

This article focuses specifically on the landscaping mulch provisions of AB 2346 and how park and maintenance departments can leverage existing operations to help meet procurement goals. To qualify for procurement credit, jurisdictions must do more than simply use or distribute mulch; they must establish a formal, enforceable mechanism that ensures these practices are consistent, measurable, and compliant with state requirements.

An enforceable mechanism is a jurisdiction-adopted rule, ordinance, or policy that mandates the use of recovered organic waste products, such as requiring a



minimum percentage of mulch application on public landscapes. To qualify under SB 1383, this mechanism must be documented, verifiable, and included in the jurisdiction's implementation record. The California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) expects jurisdictions to report these mechanisms in their EAR as proof that they are not merely purchasing or producing mulch or compost, but actively applying or distributing it in ways that support the law's environmental objectives.

For park and landscaping departments, this means that routine tree maintenance and mulch application can directly contribute to SB 1383 procurement compliance credits. If your jurisdiction is already using mulch from trimmed trees in public parks, medians, or other landscaped areas you may be eligible to count that activity toward your SB 1383 procurement goals. The key is proper documentation: jurisdictions must verify that the mulch was produced from eligible organic waste, applied or distributed in accordance with the law, and recorded in their implementation records.

To ensure compliance with SB 1383, jurisdictions should:

- Track the volume of mulch produced and applied.
- Confirm the source of the organic material (e.g., tree

trimming operations).

- Maintain records of where and how the mulch was used.
- Adopt and document an enforceable mechanism, such as a local policy or directive that mandates the use of recovered organic waste products (e.g., a minimum mulch application standard for public landscapes).
- Include all relevant data and supporting documentation, including the enforceable mechanism, in their EAR submission to CalRecycle.

By leveraging existing operations, jurisdictions can reduce reliance on external procurement, lower costs, and demonstrate environmental leadership, all while meeting state mandates. AB 2346 provides a practical pathway to compliance, and park and landscaping departments are well-positioned to take advantage of this opportunity.

For more information on SB 1383 procurement requirements, visit <https://calrecycle.ca.gov/organics/slcp/resources/>.

Making Multifamily Recycling Work



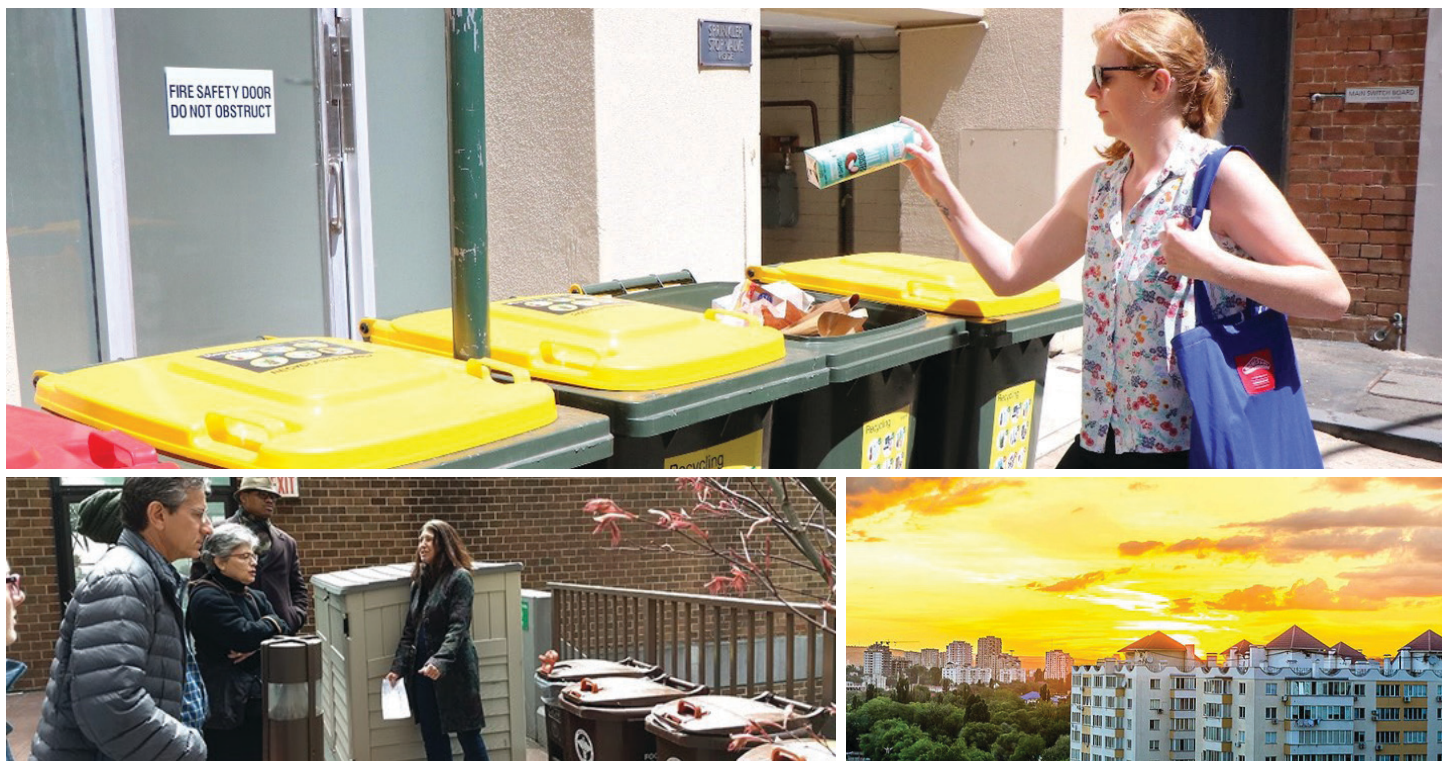
California's Senate Bill (SB) 1383, also known as the Short-Lived Climate Pollutant Reduction Act, aims to reduce organic waste in landfills, thereby significantly decreasing methane emissions—a potent greenhouse gas. The law sets ambitious targets, including a 75 percent reduction in organic waste disposal and a recovery of 20 percent of edible food. Effective January 1, 2022, all multifamily complexes are required to subscribe to an organics collection service and ensure residents properly separate food scraps, green waste, and food-soiled paper into their green bins. These requirements are crucial to achieving the state's climate goals and enhancing local environmental health. Diverting food waste from landfills enables it to be transformed into valuable green products, such as compost, which enriches the soil, and renewable energy, thereby reducing reliance on fossil fuels.

However, implementing recycling and organics programs in multifamily properties is often more complex than in single-family homes. Common challenges include low resident participation, bin contamination, limited space for waste infrastructure, high turnover rates, language barriers, and inconsistent communication between property managers and tenants. Also, many apartment buildings were not designed with recycling in mind, so retrofitting effective collection systems

requires creativity, collaboration, and ongoing effort. Without proper signage, education, and support, even well-intentioned recycling efforts can fail to reach their full potential.

According to Waste Management Inc., successful recycling in multifamily communities depends on several key factors, often requiring collaboration between waste management organizations and local governments. They believe three key elements are essential: property managers who genuinely care, improved facilities, and resident education. One crucial aspect involves what they call the "Four C's": convenience, clarity, capacity, and color. Convenience means ensuring recycling and trash bins are easily accessible for tenants. Clarity involves clearly labeling bins to distinguish between trash and recycling and displaying pictures of what can be recycled. Capacity requires using large enough bins and matching the garbage pickup service to prevent overflow. Color involves using color-coded bins for recycling and garbage to simplify understanding for tenants.

Beyond just providing bins and signs, comprehensive education for both building staff and residents is crucial for consistent and proper use of recycling systems. Companies that provide Zero-Waste strategies for communities and businesses offer property site



assessments, training, and toolkits that support property managers with ready-to-use signage, bin guidelines, and outreach materials. They advise property managers to have educational campaigns that can include workshops, informational videos, or monthly sustainability newsletters highlighting recycling tips and benefits. They also believe that community involvement can be fostered by incentivizing participation with rewards or recognition through events like recycling drives or sustainability challenges. Implementing feedback channels that allow residents to ask questions and provide input fosters trust and enables the prompt addressing of concerns.

Zero Waste companies also advise creating centralized recycling hubs in high-traffic areas, such as near elevators or communal mailrooms, which can encourage use if they are well-lit, clean, and easily accessible. Additionally, regular waste and recycling audits help determine the optimal number and placement of bins based on resident usage patterns. They believe that a lack of clear communication between management and residents can hinder the success of a recycling program.

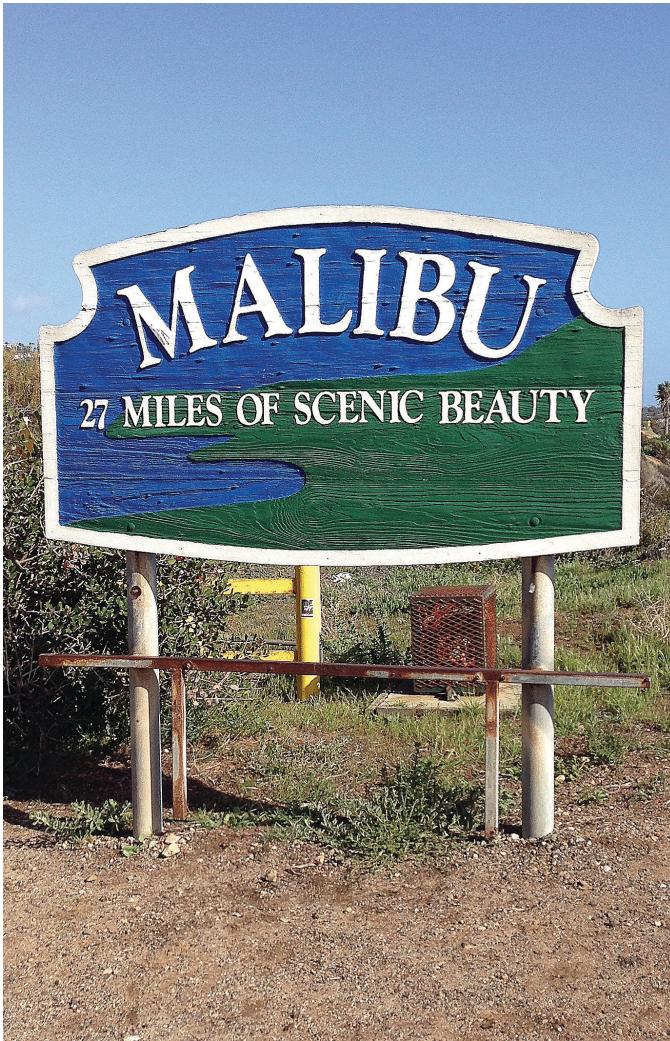
Some cities have developed highly effective programs despite persistent barriers. In San Francisco,

for example, waste hauler Recology partnered with property managers, custodians, and tenants at a large public housing site where broken locks and illegal dumping had led to major waste issues. After repairing infrastructure and providing education and outreach, waste diversion from landfills improved significantly. Montgomery County, Maryland, tackled infrastructure constraints and language barriers by providing each apartment with a blue recycling bin, creating multilingual brochures, and training property staff. Seattle, facing high tenant turnover, moved away from relying solely on property managers and now mails recycling instructions directly to residents. They also follow up with welcome packets for newcomers, contributing to high participation rates across 145,000 multifamily households.

Building a culture of recycling within multifamily housing takes time and effort. Nevertheless, success stories from across the country demonstrate that with the right tools, engagement, and persistence, it can be achieved, yielding cleaner communities, lower landfill costs, and a healthier planet.

To learn more about SB 1383, visit <https://calrecycle.ca.gov/organics/slcp/resources/>.

Enforcing Plastic Bans Through Malibu's Clean Bay Certified Program



The City of Malibu has long been a leader in environmental stewardship, particularly in reducing single-use plastics. Since the early 2000s, Malibu has adopted a series of ordinances banning polystyrene foam, plastic grocery bags, straws, stirrers, cutlery, and, more recently, plastic water bottles and sandbags. These measures help protect Malibu's unique coastal environment, marine life, and natural beauty from the harmful impacts of plastic pollution.

To ensure these bans are effectively enforced, Malibu integrates compliance efforts into its Clean Bay Certified Program. Administered in partnership with The Bay Foundation, Clean Bay Certified recognizes food service establishments that implement best management

practices (BMPs) aimed at preventing stormwater pollution and solid waste management, including reducing plastic waste.

The program began in 2008 as the Clean Bay Restaurant Certification and focuses on helping restaurants adopt sustainable, ocean-friendly business practices. Since 2015, Malibu has partnered with The Bay Foundation and other Santa Monica Bay cities to highlight businesses committed to protecting water quality.

Each year, the City's Environmental Sustainability Division within the Community Development Department conducts in-person inspections of local food establishments. These visits assess compliance



with BMPs—such as proper grease disposal and staff training—and include checks for prohibited plastic items. Inspectors walk through kitchens and service areas, meet with owners or staff, and provide technical assistance or recommend sustainable product alternatives when needed.

This approach emphasizes education and partnership over strict enforcement. Inspectors share ordinance updates, answer questions, and provide resources on eco-friendly products, often leading to meaningful improvements in business practices that benefit the environment.

Beyond annual inspections, Malibu conducts spot checks in response to community complaints

and collaborates with vendors and residents to raise awareness of plastic reduction efforts. By incorporating plastic ban enforcement into the Clean Bay program, Malibu ensures its sustainability goals are practical, measurable, and effective.

For the 2024–2025 program year, more than 40 Malibu businesses have been verified as Clean Bay Certified. As a small coastal city with global visibility, Malibu embraces its responsibility to lead by example in protecting ocean health and fostering environmental accountability.

To learn more about Malibu’s Clean Bay Certified program visit <https://www.malibucity.org/508/Clean-Bay-Restaurants>.

FALL 2025 LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

The Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) continuously monitors and analyzes legislation that may impact solid waste management in Los Angeles County. Below are summaries of legislation the Task Force has tracked during the start of the 2025/2026 Legislative Session.

California State Legislation:

Bill Number / Author

Status

AB 27

Schiavo

Amended June 19, 2025
2-year bill

This bill, for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2024, and before January 1, 2029, would provide an exclusion from gross income for amounts received, on or after March 1, 2024, as compensation for loss, damages, expenses, relocation, suffering, loss in real property value, closing costs with respect to real property, including relator commissions, or inconvenience, including access to the real property, related to the Chiquita Canyon elevated temperature landfill event in the County of Los Angeles. This bill would, to the extent permitted by federal law, prohibit any Chiquita Canyon elevated temperature landfill event payment amount received by a taxpayer from being considered income or resources when determining eligibility or benefit amounts for any means-tested program or guaranteed income payments.

AB 28

Schiavo

Amended Sept. 3, 2025
2-year bill

This bill would require the state board to amend its regulations on methane emissions from a municipal solid waste landfill (MSW landfill) to establish requirements for monitoring landfill gas temperature. The bill would require the operator of an MSW landfill to monitor landfill gas temperature in accordance with those regulations. If the gas temperature is 131 degrees Fahrenheit or higher for longer than 3 consecutive monthly monitoring periods covering 60 consecutive days, and if other criteria established by CalRecycle are met or exceeded, the bill would require the operator of the MSW landfill to take specified actions, including, but not limited to, filing a corrective action plan for the review by the local enforcement agency. Higher thresholds of 146 degrees Fahrenheit and 162 degrees Fahrenheit for the same duration necessitate further interventions, including a multiagency investigation and potential permit suspension/revocation. Failure to comply with reporting or corrective action requirements can result in daily penalties up to \$10,000 per day, with a \$1,000,000 weekly penalty for prolonged extreme temperatures.

Bill Number / Author**Status****AB 70**

Aguiar-Curry

Chaptered Oct. 13, 2025

This Act defines pyrolysis as the thermal decomposition of material at elevated temperatures in the absence or near absence of oxygen. Would also require CalRecycle, no later than January 1, 2027, to amend regulations to include, as a recovered organic waste product attributable to a local jurisdiction's procurement target, pipeline biomethane converted exclusively from organic waste.

AB 436

Ramsom

Amended March 10, 2025

2-year bill

This bill would require, the Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation along with CalRecycle to develop technical advisory by June 1, 2027, detailing best practices for siting composting facilities. Upon revising land use elements after the advisory is posted, cities, counties, and city and county entities must consider incorporating best practices, sample general plan, and model ordinance reflected in the technical advisory and to consider updating the land use element to identify areas where composting facilities may be appropriate as an allowable use by January 1, 2029.

AB 762

Irwin and Wilson

Amended March 28, 2025

2-year bill

This bill would prohibit, beginning January 1, 2026, a person from selling, distributing, or offering for sale a new or refurbished disposable, battery-embedded vapor inhalation device in this state. The bill would define a "disposable, battery-embedded vapor inhalation device" to mean a vaporization device that is not designed or intended to be reused. It would authorize a city, a county, a city and county, or the state, to enforce the above-described disposable, battery-embedded vapor inhalation device prohibition and to impose civil liability on a person or entity in violation of the prohibition in specified fine amounts, including \$500 for the first violation.

AB 1153

Bonta

Amended April 22, 2025

2-year bill

This bill would authorize CalRecycle, to provide program funding to public entities to abate illegal disposal sites for removing and disposing of recreational vehicles and for enforcement strategies including developing local enforcement teams and illegal dumping enforcement officers.

Bill Number / Author

Status

SB 279

McNerney

Chaptered October 11, 2025

This Act expands excluded activity exemption for composting activities by eliminating the maximum square-foot condition and authorizing a total amount of feedstock and compost onsite at any one time of up to 200 cubic yards, or 500 cubic yards for a composting activity owned by a public agency. Authorizes CalRecycle to further increase those amounts by regulation. Makes composting of agricultural materials and residues that are from a large-scale biomass management event at an agricultural facility that does not otherwise operate as a solid waste facility excluded activity. Authorizes composting activities to give away or sell up to 5,000 cubic yards of compost product annually.

SB 501

Allen

Amended April 7, 2025
2-year bill

This bill would establish a producer responsibility program for products containing household hazardous waste and would require a producer responsibility organization (PRO) to ensure the safe and convenient collection and management of covered products at no cost to consumers or local governments. The bill would define "covered product" to mean a consumer product that is ignitable, toxic, corrosive, or reactive, or that meets other specified criteria. The bill would require a producer of a covered product to register with the PRO, which would be required to develop and implement a producer responsibility plan for the collection, transportation, and the safe and proper management of covered products.

SB 561

Blakespear

Amended June 23, 2025
2-year bill

This bill would create a manufacturer responsibility program for the safe and proper management of emergency distress flares. Would define "covered product" to include certain pyrotechnic devices that meet the criteria for household hazardous waste. Requires a manufacturer of a covered product, individually or through a manufacturer responsibility organization, to develop and implement a manufacturer responsibility plan for the collection, transportation, and the safe and proper management of covered products. Establishes a process and timeline for DTSC to review and approve, disapprove, or conditionally approve a plan and for the implementation of an approved plan.

For more information on these bills, please visit the Task Force website, lacountyiswmtf.org or contact Perla Gomez with Los Angeles County Public Works, at (626) 300-2616, Monday - Thursday, 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.